

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 6, 2006 in which a restriction requirement was imposed upon claims 1-86 and a non-compliant amendment notice mailed on Jan. 18, 2007. With his response, Applicants elect claims 1-55 and cancel claims 22-24 and non-elected claims 56-86. Claims 1-21 and 25-55 are presented for consideration and allowance.

I. Examiner Interview Summary

On January 7, 2007, a telephonic interview was held between Examiner Chang and Applicants' attorney, Todd A. Rathe. The restriction requirement was discussed. Although no agreement was reached, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Chang for the opportunity to discuss the restriction requirement.

II. Restriction Requirement

Section 1 of the Office Action imposed a restriction requirement on the claims asserting that the claims are directed to the following distinct inventions:

I. Claims 1-55, drawn to methods; and

II. Claims 56-86, drawn to systems.

III. Election

With this response, Applicants hereby elect claims Invention I-claims 1-55, drawn to methods. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications pursuing the non-elected claims.

IV. Request for Associating Reference Numerals with Claim Limitations

Section 5 of the Office Action requested that reference numerals be associated with claim limitations. During the Examiner Interview held on January 7, 2007, the Examiner indicated that such request was optional. Although Applicants would like to satisfy the Examiner's request for such a list, Applicants concern is that such a list would potentially be construed to unduly limit the scope of the claims. Therefore, Applicants wish to refrain from making such a list of record. However, Applicants would be willing to provide the Examiner with the requested associated reference numerals during a telephonic interview to assist the Examiner with associating example structures in the disclosure with the claimed limitations. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned to set up such an interview.

V. Conclusion

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-21 and 25-55 are now pending in this application.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Jan. 30, 2007

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